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COUNTRY Venezuela

DATE DISTR. 25 October 1952

SUBJECT Proposed Publication of Newspaper by Federation
of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Venezuela

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. In the middle of August 1952 three leading newspapers in Venezuela, El Nacional, El Universal, and La Esfera, carried full-page advertisements signed by Luis Gonzalez Maturet, president of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, inviting the most important bankers, merchants, and industrialists of Caracas to a meeting. To the surprise of many who attended the meeting as a result of the advertisements, the meeting was called in order to create an official organ to defend the federation and its members.
2. In spite of wide criticism of this idea of establishing a news organ for the Federation, a committee of five was appointed at the meeting to further the project. Among the committee members are Miguel Otero Silva, editor of El Nacional; Ramon David Leon, director of La Esfera; and Carlos Eduardo Frias, president of ARS-Publicidad S.A., one of the leading advertising agencies in Venezuela.
3. La Esfera is known as a pro-American paper, but both Otero and Frias are suspected of Communist sympathies and have a local reputation of being extreme left wing. 25X
4. [REDACTED]
5. Otero and Frias are close friends and their wives recently returned from a trip to Europe which they had taken together.

1. Comment. In El Nacional of 18 September 1952 it was announced that the Venezuelan Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Production has a fund of more than a half million bolivares with which to build a new headquarters and to start the publication of a newspaper. This tends to indicate that the above-

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mentioned federation is being successful in carrying out its plans for a new publication in Caracas.

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